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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/807,383	03/24/2004	Steven T. Fink	071469-0308803	3335
909	7590	11/21/2006	EXAMINER	
PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN, LLP			PATEL, PARESH H	
P.O. BOX 10500			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
MCLEAN, VA 22102			2829	

DATE MAILED: 11/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/807,383

Applicant(s)

FINK, STEVEN T.

Examiner

Paresh Patel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 13-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 09/19/2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Woroble (US 3694749).

Regarding claims 1, 13 and 15, Woroble in fig. 1-3 and from line 38 of column 2 to line 32 of column 3, discloses an apparatus for monitoring the connection status of a connector, said apparatus comprising:

a first apparatus [plug and fig. 1-3];

a second apparatus [wall receptacle for 16 and 17] configured to be electrically and mechanically coupled to said first apparatus;

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a mounting device [device for 16 or 17, or 12] located within said first apparatus;
and

a probe [16, 17 or both] configured to be mounted within said mounting device;
wherein said probe is electrically coupled to said second apparatus [when
inserted into wall receptacle] by closing an electrical circuit [due to electrical contact],
thereby permitting current flow between said probe and said second apparatus when
said first apparatus and said second apparatus are coupled [due to AC line voltage],
and

wherein, when said first apparatus and said second apparatus are separated
[when unplugged i.e. when 10 is removed from wall receptacle], said probe disengages
from said second apparatus, thereby opening said electrical circuit [no more electrical
contact] to signal [using 14] disconnection between said first apparatus and said second
apparatus.

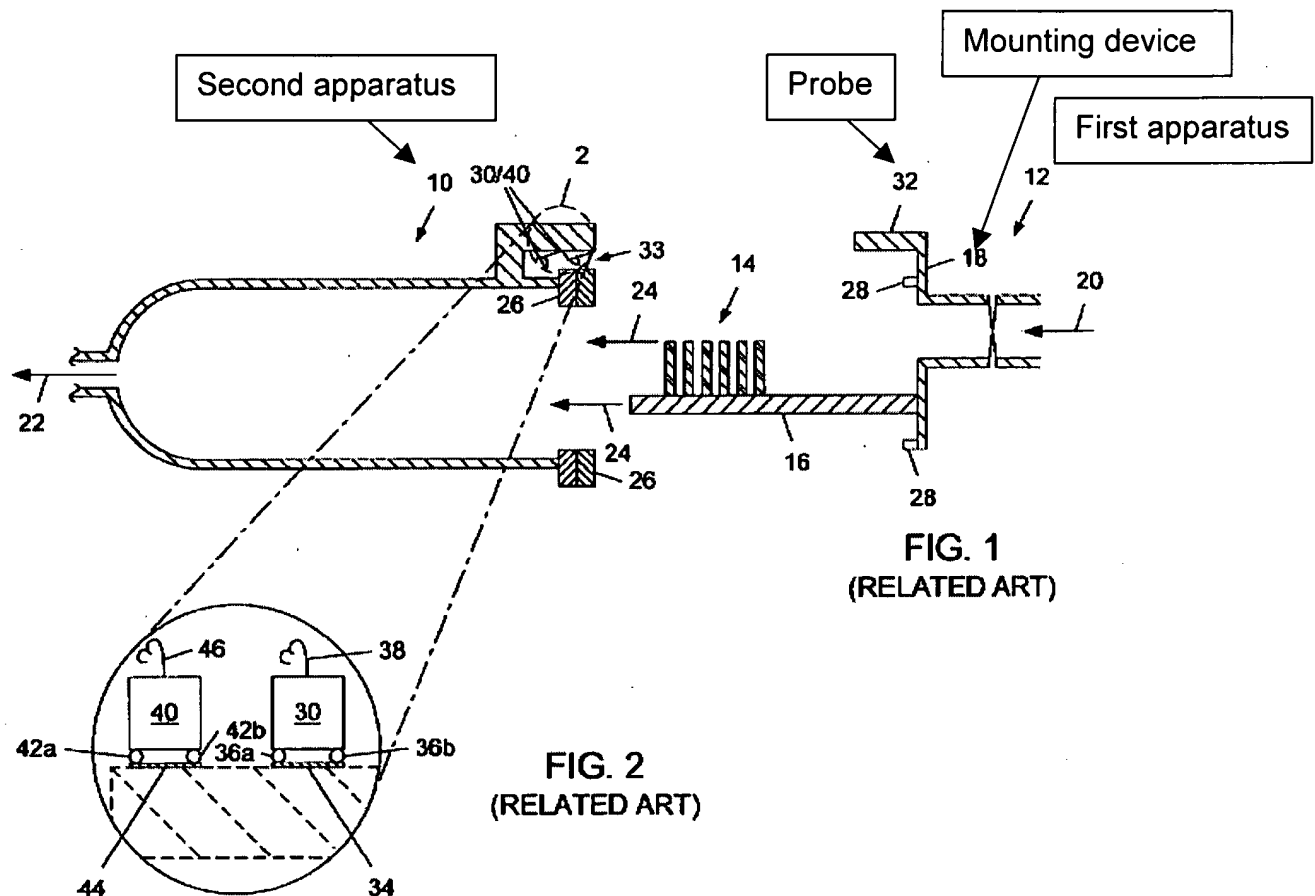
Regarding claims 2, 14 and 16, Woroble in fig. 1-3 and from line 38 of column 2
to line 32 of column 32, discloses a controller [line for AC voltage] coupled to said
probe, said controller being configured to provide power [AC voltage] to said first
apparatus and said second apparatus and disconnect power [when 16, 17 removed]
between said first apparatus and said second apparatus when said probe disengages
from said second apparatus to signal [no more blinking] disconnection between said first
apparatus and said second apparatus.

Regarding claim 3, Woroble in fig. 1-3 and from line 38 of column 2 to line 32 of
column 32, discloses an insulator [10] around said probe.

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4. Claims 1-2 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by French, Jr. (US 6105435).

Regarding claims 1-2 and 13-16, French, Jr. discloses all the elements in the following fig. 1-2.



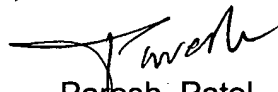
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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paresh Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-1968. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ha Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-1678. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Paresh Patel
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2829
11/18/06

November 18, 2006